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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application: Melekian, et al.

Serial No.: 09/779,961

Filed: 02/09/2001

Group Art Unit: 1725

Examiner: McHenry, Kevin L.

For: METHOD FOR WELDING AN AXLE HOUSING

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TC 1700

RESPONSE

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action mailed on November 5, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-20 as obvious pursuant to 35 U.S.C. §103(a). These rejections were based on references not previously cited. These rejections are improper. The claims are allowable over the cited references. For the convenience of the Examiner, Applicant addresses each of the arguments raised in the Office Action of November 5, 2002 in the order they are raised.

Claims 1-3 and 9-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Glaze, et al.* (U.S.P. 4,754,847) in view of *Danjou, et al.* (U.S.P. 5,442,977) and *Gale* (U.S.P. 1,323,178). Previously, the Examiner argued that *Glaze, et al.* and *Gale* could be combined to teach Applicant's invention as described by the foregoing claims.